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OASB

Chronology of the Cuban Crisis, October 15-28, 1962

The following account is based on TOP SECRET material and has not been cleared for any public use. The material enclosed in brackets appears to be such that it cannot be released at this time.

The chronology has been prepared on the basis of information provided by the White House Press Office, the Department of Defense Office of Public Affairs, and the State Department Bureau of Public Affairs.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/AD

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October 15
Monday

Aerial photographs taken previous day are developed and analyzed. They indicate existence of strategic missiles and sites in Cuba. Between 8 and 10 p.m. this information is relayed to Secretary McNamara, Deputy Secretary Gilpatrick, General Carter, General Carroll, General Taylor, Secretary of State Rusk, Under Secretary Ball, Deputy Under Secretary U. Alexis Johnson, McGeorge Bundy, CIA Director McCone and his Deputy, Ray Cline, Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs Edwin Martin. Rusk takes call in pantry outside State Dining Room at State Department, where he is hosting dinner for German Foreign Minister Schroeder. Martin receives message at National Press Club, just after he finishes talk to Sigma Delta Chi on Cuba situation.

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October 17
Wednesday

A "blur of meetings" of the main policy group in the
~~"think tank"~~ Under Secretary Ball's Conference Room.

All the people at Tuesday's White House meetings except
the President, with the addition of Secretary Dillon,
Adlai Stevenson, and Dean Acheson. Meeting evaluates
the evidence, what it means, and possible responses.

reconnaissance flights ordered Tuesday take place.
Read-out on aerial photographs indicates launching
pads and signs of mobile launchers with missiles.

President sees McGeorge Bundy at 9:35 a.m. Flies to
Connecticut to campaign in afternoon. Is met at airport
that night by Robert Kennedy, Ted Sorensen, and

Was a day of "full and free discussion", no rigid
positions, no "departmental" points of view.

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October 18
Thursday

Meeting with President at White House at 11 a.m. ^{and} ~~the President~~ ^{the President} ~~conference~~ ^{conference} ~~with~~ ^{with} ~~McNamara~~ ^{McNamara} ~~and McNamara~~ ^{and McNamara} again at 3:30 p.m. In between, group assembles in

Secretary of State's conference room, starting at 2:30. ^{the President met with McNamara} That meeting continues into evening. At 4:30, Rusk and Thompson depart for White House meeting with Gromyko.

Dinner for Gromyko at State Department starts at 8:00 p.m., lasts until 12:25 a.m. Meanwhile, ^{discussion} ~~talk~~ continues in Ball's Conference Room. Secretary McNamara, Roswell Gilpatric, and John McCone, seen

arriving at State Department, are asked by a reporter "Are you going to the dinner." Reply: "Yes." At 9 p.m. ^{called the group into conference} meeting shifts to White House, where President joins.

To avoid attracting attention to their limousines, nine ^{at this meeting, first conference began to disband} of the group rode to White House in one car. At 12:25 a.m.

Rusk, Ball, Johnson, Thompson, Martin confer in Secretary's conference room. Robert Lovett brought in that afternoon.

During day reconnaissance of Cuba continues. ^{FOC} ~~authorizes certain aircraft to be deployed to fields in Southeast United States.~~

Deputy Defense Secretary Gilpatric requested the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs (General Taylor) to: 1) have a list prepared of riot control equipment and other support which the U.S. could give Latin American nations for

internal

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October 18

Thursday Continued

internal security purposes; 2) determine which Latin American nations could assist the U.S. in a blockade of Cuba; 3) to prepare a list of offensive weapons to include in a blockade; 4) to consider pro's and con's of blockading aircraft as well as ships;

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[illegible]

"A Pentagon spokesman denied tonight that any alert has been ordered or that any emergency measures have been set in motion against Communist ruled Cuba. Further, the spokesman said the Pentagon has no information indicating the presence of offensive weapons in Cuba." [At 1:20 p.m., the Atlantic and Caribbean commands are alerted against possible air attack on Panama Canal, Bamey AFB and Naval Station, Roosevelt Roads, and are requested to prepare recommendations for augmentation of air defenses. Hawk Battalions are directed to increase readiness.]

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Saturday
October 20

9:00 a.m. meeting at State Department in Ball's Conference Room. During morning several Assistant Secretaries of State brought in (Tyler, Talbot, Harriman) to work on draft messages, letters, contingency papers. ~~A "scenario" is drafted by~~

~~Alexis Johnson, scripting the proposed course of action for all the branches of government involved.~~

At 8:12 a.m., the Joint Chiefs of Staff advise commanders-in-chief that state of tension in Cuba could lead to military action. USIA prepares to link up American medium wave stations with Voice of America to broadcast President's speech, and to go on 24 hours a day transmission in Spanish. President returns from campaign trip with "cold."

~~President sees British Ambassador Ormsby-Gore.~~
2:30 p.m. Meeting of National Security Council,

known as the
Oval Room. The full group, including Ambassadors Stevenson, Thompson, Robert Lovett, ~~and~~

Detailed intelligence briefing given, aerial photographs exhibited. Enlarged photographs shown to President on the stage of work at each missile site. President decides to institute the quarantine, *is suitable response to the* ~~but to delay it long enough to con-~~ suit allies and to permit military preparations.

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President's television address set for Monday at 7:00 p.m. (P Hour). ² Draft of speech discussed and revised. Plans for OAS, United Nations, also presented. Possibility remained of acting sooner if a security breach developed. That night State Department sends "pre-position" messages to all Latin American posts, subject to "go" signal Monday, indicating course of action to be followed. Defense Department prepares for quarantine.

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October 21
Sunday

Staffs summoned during day to Defense, State Departments
~~for Operation White.~~ Work at State involves Operations
Center, Executive Secretariat, regional and functional
bureaus. Tight security successfully maintained.
Quarantine Proclamation prepared. Dean Acheson briefed
for mission to Europe. Livingston Merchant called in to
prepare for mission to Ottawa. Ambassador Dowling called
back from Georgia. Individual, personal letters prepared
from President to 43 Heads of Government. Resolutions
prepared for OAS, UN. Robert Manning (State), Arthur
Sylvester (Defense), Pierre Salinger (White House)
meet to establish public affairs coordination.

President meets with National Security Council at 2:30 p.m.
Discussion centers on third draft of speech and progress
reports on preparations. It was decided that our first
objective would be to block further shipments of offensive
military equipment to Cuba, and that our aim was also
to see that the Soviet missiles were removed from Cuba
under UN supervision and inspection.

See work at his
During the day Larry O'Brien speaks congressional
leaders to White House meeting Monday at 5 p.m. Sunday
night State Department sends top secret telegrams in code
describing proposed actions to our Ambassadors. Text

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*Not administered
w/Chambers
in line to
present, also
Don Wilson, etc.
10:30
recomm. 10:30*

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October 21 continued
Sunday

of President's speech with covering letter to Khrushchev sent to Embassy in Moscow for delivery to Soviet Foreign Office one hour before President's speech. President's letters to Prime Minister Macmillan, de Gaulle, Adenauer, Nehru, Diefenbaker, Fanfani, Mayor Brandt and others sent in code to our Embassies for transmission. Text of President's speech sent in code to all posts. Individual letters from President sent to 43 Heads of Government. During that weekend the State Department transmitted 15 separate Presidential letters or other documents to a total of 441 recipients.

That afternoon and evening the Joint Chiefs of Staff directed the Commander in Chief of the Atlantic Fleet (CINCLANT) to prepare to evacuate dependents from Guantanamo on Monday, to reinforce that base starting Monday, to assume operational control of certain Army and Air Force units, and to be prepared to furnish riot support control to Latin American countries as required. At 10 p.m. Secretary McNamara approved the procedures and rules of the quarantine. [

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Monday
October 22

Policy group meets with President at 11:00 a.m.
National Security Council meets at 3:00. President
formally establishes Executive Committee of National
Security Council and asks it to meet with him daily at
10:00 a.m. At noon, Pierre Salinger announces President
will make important statement at 7:00 p.m. and requests
air time from radio and television networks, which is
granted. Also at noon, dependents start being evacuated
from Guantanamo. That morning a planning directive for
the quarantine of Cuba was issued to the Atlantic Fleet.
Nine radio stations are asked to broadcast President's
speech to Latin American in Spanish. 4:00 p.m. Cabinet
meeting. 5:00 p.m. briefing for Congressional leaders
at White House. 6:15 NATO, SEATO, CENTO Ambassadors'
given background briefing at State Department. At
6:00 p.m. Ambassador Dobrynin sees Secretary Rusk.
During day Prime Minister Mcmillan briefed by Ambassador
Bruce, President DeGaulle by Dean Acheson, and
Chancellor Adenauer by Ambassador Dowling. Acheson
also briefs NATO Council. At 7:00 p.m. President speaks.
At 7:30 letter from President, given to Zorin in his
capacity as Chairman of the Security Council (with text
of U.S. Resolution). At 7:30, Assistant Secretary Martin
briefs OAS Ambassadors. At 8:00 p.m. Secretary Rusk
briefs all other Ambassadors, and State Department

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background briefing for the press is held. Secretary McNamara briefs press at Pentagon, also on background basis. Aerial photographs exhibited and explained at all briefings. Public Affairs offices at State, Defense, White House go on 24-hour basis. Pentagon reviews mobilization planning. Preparations are ordered for possible reserve recall. Secretary McNamara directs [

From 10:40

to 11:25 p.m. he visits office of Chief of Naval Operations for discussions of the blockade and establishment of surveillance. [

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Tuesday
October 23

Executive Committee meets twice, 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. President approves issuance of Proclamation of Interdiction. President signs Executive Order authorizing extension of tours of duty for certain members of armed forces. [Low level reconnaissance of Cuba authorized by President.] Three subcommittees of Executive Committee established: on Berlin problems, advance planning, and communications. [Letter received from Chairman Khrushchev at 11:56 a.m. President's reply to Khrushchev sent at 6:51 p.m.] At 7:00 p.m. President signs Proclamation at White House. At 8:00 p.m. Secretary of Defense announces that action has been taken to deploy our forces to make effective the quarantine by 10:00 a.m. the next morning. Also announces extension of active duty of certain personnel in Navy and Marine Corps. CINCLANT instructed to implement maritime quarantine. Chief of Naval Operations put in charge. At 9:00 a.m. Secretary Rusk speaks to OAS Organ of Consultation in Washington. At 3:00 p.m. the OAS reconvenes and at 4:45 by 19-0 vote, it adopts Resolution backing quarantine and urging immediate removal of Soviet missiles from Cuba.

at 4:00 p.m.

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At 4:00 p.m. Ambassador Stevenson delivers opening statement to Security Council, and exhibits aerial photographs. Cuban and Soviet UN Representatives also speak. Messages from President sent by State Department to Mayor Brandt, Chancellor Adenauer, President DeGaulle.

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Wednesday
October 24

Quarantine takes effect. Executive Committee meets at 10 am at White House. At 11:00 a.m. State Department background briefing is held for delegates of European Broadcasting Union. OAS meets at 3:00 p.m. At 3 p.m., the French, British, and German ambassadors see Secretary Rusk. There is a Congressional Briefing at 5:00 p.m. at the White House. At 1:00 a.m. 14 aerial reconnaissance photos (prematurely released by American Embassy, London) are made available to U.S. press. At 7:35 p.m. four low level aerial rec photos released. TASS releases exchange of telegrams between Bertrand Russell and Khrushchev. White House requests public media to exercise discretion in publishing information relating to national security. Defense issues announcement centralizing information release in office of Public Affairs. At 4:00 p.m. Defense announces there are 8-10 bases near various Cuban cities, each base having 40 launchers; and that there are over 30 missiles, over 20 IL-28 jet fighter bombers, and over 5,000 Soviet personnel in Cuba. The Greek oiler "Sirius" is cleared through the quarantine. At 9:00 a.m. the Security Council

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meets, with statements by Venezuela, the United Kingdom, Romania, and Ireland. At 2:00 p.m. U Thant sends identical messages to President and Khrushchev asking that US and Soviet ships avoid direct confrontation for the next few days. At the 6:00 p.m. Security Council meeting there are statements by France, China, Chile, UAR, Ghana, and the Secretary General. UAR and Ghana submit resolution calling on both sides to refrain from action and to negotiate. (At 9:24 p.m. Khrushchev letter to President received at State Department. President's reply is transmitted at 1:59 a.m. Thursday, and is hand carried at that hour to the Soviet Embassy in Washington.)

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Thursday
October 25

Executive Committee of National Security Council meets at 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. The President given report on military situation and issues instructions for the interdiction and inspection of non-Bloc ships. President's reply to U Thant's message (10/24) sent at 2:19 p.m., stating Ambassador Stevenson will talk to U Thant. Khrushchev also replies to U Thant. At 2:26 p.m. U Thant sends second message to President and Khrushchev asking avoidance of direct confrontations of Soviet and American ships in quarantine. Resolution adopted by the OAS on 10/23 transmitted to the UN. At Security Council meeting, Stevenson challenges Zorin to deny existence of Soviet missiles in Cuba. State Department gives background briefing for U.S. press, followed by 2:00 p.m. briefing for foreign press. State Department conducts briefings for Congressmen in Atlanta, New York City, Chicago, San Francisco. At 11:50 a.m., Defense Department announces at least a dozen Soviet vessels have turned back, and that at 8:00 a.m. the Navy had intercepted the Soviet tanker Bucharest proceeding towards Cuba and permitted it to proceed without boarding.

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At 8:35 p.m. the East German passenger ship
VOIDERFRUEND with 20 students bound for Havana
was cleared through the quarantine, as was the
British ship SUIACO, bound for Jamaica. Late
that night instructions are sent to all posts
on "CLEARCERT" procedures to be followed by
vessels departing from foreign ports destined
for quarantine areas. E

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Friday
October 26

10:00 a.m. Excomm meeting at White House.

Secretary of Defense reports on quarantine and Secretary Rusk reports on negotiations underway between U Thant and Stevenson. The President authorizes release of statement noting that missile development work is continuing in Cuba and recalling his earlier statement that such work must cease. (E)

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[At 4:00 p.m. British, German, and French Ambassadors are briefed at State Department and see Secretary. At 7:50 a.m. the Lebanese flag ship MARUCLA under charter to the Soviet Union is intercepted and boarded by a party from the JOSEPH P. KENNEDY and PIERCE. Boarding party not armed and ship permitted to proceed when no weapons are found. Later the Swedish ship COLLANGATTA passed through quarantine. At 6:15 Mr. Salinger announced that photo reconnaissance reveals continued buildup of missiles in Cuba. At 6:00 p.m. letter from Khrushchev to President received at State Department. In letter to U Thant Khrushchev accepts proposal

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that Soviet ships should stay out of interception area. President replies to U Thant that incidents can be avoided if Soviet ships stay out of interception area. U Thant sends letter to Castro asking that work on missile bases be suspended while negotiations under way. [Informal messages from Soviets received through unofficial channels at UN and Washington.] Secretary of State and aides remain late at State Department analyzing the messages and other signals. That day tightened security measures go into effect at Pentagon. [

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Saturday
October 27

President meets with Executive Committee of National Security at 10:00 a.m. in the Situation Room at the White House. During that meeting Khrushchev letter to President received as published in TASS and broadcast on Radio Moscow, stating that Jupiter missiles should be withdrawn from Turkey in exchange for removal of Soviet missiles from Cuba. Between 10:15 and 11:00 a.m. a U-2 reconnaissance plane is shot down over Eastern Cuba. At about the same hour a U-2 accidentally overflies the Chokut Peninsula in Eastern USSR due to navigational difficulties. [Soviet fighters scramble from a base near Wrangel Island.] At Excomm President decides to issue public statement in response to unacceptable Khrushchev message of that morning, and to reply to Khrushchev letter of previous evening. White House press release at 4:35 p.m. refers to "inconsistent and conflicting" proposals of the USSR and calls attention to imperative necessity of dealing immediately with the Soviet missile threat in Cuba, "under which no sensible negotiation can proceed." At 3:15 p.m. the State Department announced ~~the~~ CLEARCERT

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system to assist vessels intending to transit
waters near Cuba. (C)

Meeting
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State

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At 3:35 p.m. the Pentagon announces that Jupiter
missiles were made available to Turkey pursuant
to a NATO Council Resolution of December, 1957.
Also announced that our reconnaissance plane on
flight over Cuba is missing and presumed lost.
At 4:00 p.m. the Excomm meets again with President.
Secretary McNamara reports that two low-level
reconnaissance planes flying over Cuba have
been fired on by light anti-aircraft and small
arms. [President decides not to say anything
about accidental U-2 flight over USSR that
morning unless the Soviets publicized it.]
President [orders further air reconnaissance
missions and] approves reply to Khrushchev's
private letter of the previous evening. It is
transmitted at 8:05 p.m. and released to the
press. At 4:00 p.m. the Joint Chiefs of Staff
advised CINCLANT that the circular areas of 500
nautical miles radius centered on Havana and

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Cape Maysi had been designated as the "interception area" for the quarantine of Cuba. At 9:00 p.m. a note is received from the Secretary General that Soviet Representative Zorin refuses to receive information about the "interception area." At 9:00 Excomm Meeting President approves call-up of 24 troop carrier squadrons of the Air Force Reserve, which is announced by Secretary McNamara at 9:20 p.m.

At 9:19 p.m. State Department receives copy of Castro reply to U Thant flatly rejecting the proposal that missile bases be dismantled and demanding immediate halt of the naval blockade. Excomm discusses additional steps to be taken following day, such as mobilizing U.S. merchant ships and adding petroleum, oil, and lubricants to the prohibited list. That night at 12:12 a.m. instructions are sent to Ambassador Finletter for a special meeting of the NATO Council, to report on actions taken thus far and to review with NATO the problems arising out of Khrushchev's public letter. Letters from President are sent to De Gaulle and Adenauer.

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Sunday
October 28

Defense Department announces names of units of Air Force Reserve called up and that aerial reconnaissance of Cuba continuing. About 10:00 a.m. new Khrushchev message is broadcast over Radio Moscow. (Delivered to American Embassy, Moscow at 7:00 p.m. local time, ten minutes after start of broadcast.) Full text as broadcast available at 11:00 a.m. meeting of Executive Committee. Message orders dismantling and returning of missiles to USSR under UN supervision. A reply to Khrushchev is discussed, approved, sent, and released, without waiting for official text to be received. The President in Excomm and a State Department official at 1:00 p.m. background press briefing indicate that while we welcome Khrushchev's message, it remains to be implemented, and many serious problems will be encountered in the withdrawal of Soviet weapons from Cuba. This is not a time for gloating, nor can one reach any general conclusions about the future course of Soviet conduct in other areas. At 1:30 p.m. the Joint Chiefs direct CINCLANT to take no forceful action and not to board any ships until further orders. [At 6:30 p.m. CINCLANT is directed

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to maintain careful watch for Alpha 66 (Cuban exile) units and to prevent any operations against Cuba.7

At 5:00 p.m. Secretary of State briefs Latin American Ambassadors on latest developments .

At 5:40 p.m. U Thant writes President Kennedy stating his understanding of the agreement that has been reached in the exchange of correspondence.

At 6:30 p.m. President sends letter to U Thant confirming the lines on which a satisfactory settlement of the Cuban situation can be reached.

U Thant writes Castro accepting invitation to go to Cuba with aides to work out solution.

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Chronology of the Cuban Crisis, October 15-28, 1962

This chronology has been prepared for background use on the basis of information provided by the White House Press Office, the Department of Defense Office of Public Affairs, and the State Department Bureau of Public Affairs.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

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() EXTEND () DECLASSIFY in PART
() LIMIT () Non-responsive info.
FOI, EO or PA exemptions _____
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October 15
Monday

Aerial photographs taken previous day are developed and analyzed. They indicate existence of strategic missiles and sites in Cuba. Between 8 and 10 p.m. this information is relayed to Defense Secretary McNamara, Deputy Defense Secretary Roswell Gilpatric, General Carroll, General Maxwell Taylor, Secretary of State Rusk, Under Secretary George Ball, Deputy Under Secretary U. Alexis Johnson, White House aide McGeorge Bundy, CIA Director McCone and his Deputy General Marshall S. Carter, Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs Edwin Martin, State Department Director of Intelligence and Research Roger Hilsman. Rusk takes call in pantry outside State Dining Room at State Department, where he is hosting dinner for German Foreign Minister Schroeder. Martin receives message at National Press Club, just after he finishes talk to Sigma Delta Chi on Cuba situation. Several others are informed during private dinner at Fort McNair quarters of General Taylor.

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October 16
Tuesday

At 9 a.m. the President in his bedroom receives photographic evidence from McGeorge Bundy. At 11:45 President convenes meeting at the White House. Those attending: Vice President, Secretary Rusk, Secretary McNamara, Secretary Dillon, the Attorney General, General Maxwell Taylor, Roswell Gilpatric, George Ball, Ambassador Bohlen, Edwin Martin, General Carter (CIA), McGeorge Bundy, Ted Sorenson, Ken O'Donnell. It is decided that reconnaissance of Cuba should be greatly increased.

Conferences that afternoon at the State Department include Rusk, Ball, Martin, Alexis Johnson, Ambassador Bohlen, Ambassador Thompson, Ambassador Stevenson. At 6:30 p.m. there is another meeting at the White House, with the same people as the morning meeting.

Meetings resume at the State Department that evening, concluding in the Secretary's office after 11 p.m. It is decided to maintain very tight security.

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October 16
Tuesday
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That afternoon and thereafter every morning at
8:30 the U. S. Intelligence Board meets.
Representatives from State Department, CIA, and
military.

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October 17
Wednesday

A "blur of meetings" of the main policy group in Under Secretary Ball's Conference Room. All the people at Tuesday's White House meetings except the President and the Vice President, with the addition of John McCone, Ambassador Llewellyn Thompson, Dean Acheson, and Alexis Johnson. Meeting evaluates the evidence, what it means, and possible responses.

Reconnaissance flights ordered Tuesday take place. Read-out on aerial photographs indicates launching pads and signs of mobile launchers with missiles.

President sees McGeorge Bundy, John McCone at 9:35 a.m. In afternoon he flies to Connecticut to keep campaign commitment. Is met at airport when he returns that night by Robert Kennedy and Ted Sorenson.

Was a day of full and free discussion, no rigid positions, no "departmental" points of view.

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October 18
Thursday

Meeting with President at White House at 11 a.m. That afternoon Robert Lovett brought in by President and McGeorge Bundy. At 3:30 p.m. President confers with Secretaries Rusk and McNamara. In between, the policy group assembles in Secretary of State's conference room, starting at 2:30. That meeting continues into evening. At 4:30, President confers with Rusk and Thompson, prior to meeting with Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko, which lasts from 5 to 7:18 p.m. Dinner for Gromyko at State Department starts at 8:00 p.m., lasts until 12:25 a.m. Meanwhile, discussion continues in Ball's Conference Room. Secretary McNamara and Roswell Gilpatric, seen arriving at State Department, are asked by a reporter "Are you going to the dinner." Reply: "Yes." At 10 p.m. President calls group into conference with him at the White House. To avoid attracting attention to their limousines, nine of the principals rode to the White House in one car. At this meeting the final consensus began to develop. During the evening legal and OAS aspects of blockade or "defensive quarantine" discussed at State Department. At 12:25 a.m. Rusk, Ball,

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October 18
Thursday
Continued

Johnson, Thompson, Martin confer in Secretary's conference room. During day reconnaissance of Cuba continues.

Deputy Defense Secretary Gilpatric requests the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, to: 1) have a list prepared of riot control equipment and other support which the U. S. could give Latin American nations for internal security purposes; 2) determine which Latin American nations could assist the U. S. in a blockade of Cuba; 3) to prepare a list of offensive weapons to include in a blockage; 4) to consider pro's and con's of blockading aircraft as well as ships.

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Friday
October 19

Meetings of planning groups of principals all day at State Department, mainly in Under Secretary's conference room. Sandwiches brought in. Before leaving for campaign trip, President meets with Secretaries Rusk and McNamara and the Joint Chiefs of Staff, delaying his departure by half an hour. As outlines of probable course of policy become clear working groups are established within the planning group. Aides are brought in to discuss legal, technical questions. Detailed summaries are prepared. That night Secretary Rusk cancels speech to Business Council in Hot Springs, Va. Our ambassadors to Latin American countries who are in the U. S. are ordered to return to their posts. Aerial reconnaissance continues. Cancellation of TAC's full mobility exercise is announced by Pentagon, attributed to weather in refueling areas caused by Hurricane Ella. Following statement used in response to query: "A Pentagon spokesman denied tonight that any alert has been ordered or that any emergency measures have been set in motion against

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Friday
October 19
Continued

Communist ruled Cuba. Further, the spokesman said the Pentagon has no information indicating the presence of offensive weapons in Cuba." Late that night the first draft of President's October 22 speech is written.

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Saturday
October 20

At 8:12 a.m., the Joint Chiefs of Staff advised commanders-in-chief that state of tension in Cuba could lead to military action. At 9:00 a.m. the planning group meets in the Under Secretary of State's Conference Room. During morning several Assistant Secretaries of State are called in to draft messages, letters, and contingency papers. Chief legal officers of State, Defense, and Justice draft quarantine proclamation. USIA prepares to link up American medium wave stations with Voice of America to broadcast President's speech, and to go on 24 hours a day transmission in Spanish. President returns from campaign trip with "cold." At 2:30 p.m. the President meets with the Planning Group of principals in the Oval Room. The full group, including Robert Lovett and Ambassadors Stevenson and Thompson. Detailed intelligence briefing given, aerial photographs exhibited. Enlarged photographs shown to President on the stage of work at each missile site. President decides to institute the quarantine as quickly as

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Saturday
October 20
Continued

possible, but taking into account the need to notify allies and to permit military preparations. President's television address set for Monday at 7:00 p.m. (P Hour). Second draft of speech is discussed and revised. Plans for Organization of American states, United Nations, also presented. Possibility remained of acting sooner if a security breach developed. That night State Department sends "pre-position" messages to all Latin American posts, subject to "go" signal Monday, indicating course of action to be followed. Defense Department prepares for quarantine.

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October 21
Sunday

Staffs summoned during day to Defense, State Departments. Work at State involves Operations Center, Executive Secretariat, regional and functional bureaus. Tight security successfully maintained. Dean Acheson briefed for mission to Europe. Livingston Merchant called in to prepare for mission to Ottawa. Ambassador Dowling called back from Georgia. Resolutions prepared for OAS, UN. Robert Manning (State), Arthur Sylvester (Defense), Pierre Salinger (White House) meet to establish public affairs coordination.

President meets with National Security Council at 2:30 p.m., with Admiral Anderson, Chief of Naval Operations, and Don Wilson, Acting Director, USIA, attending. Discussion centers on third draft of speech and progress reports on preparations. It was decided that our first objective would be to block further shipments of offensive military equipment to Cuba, and that our aim was also to see that the Soviet missiles were

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October 21
Sunday
Continued

removed from Cuba under UN supervision and inspection.

During the day Larry O'Brien prepares list of Congressional leaders and with General Godfrey McHugh arranges for military jets to bring them to Washington for 5:00 p.m. Monday meeting at the White House. Sunday night State Department sends top secret telegrams in code describing proposed actions to our Ambassadors. Text of President's speech with covering letter to Khrushchev sent to Embassy in Moscow for delivery to Soviet Foreign Office one hour before President's speech. President's letters to Prime Minister Macmillan, de Gaulle, Adenauer, Nehru, Diefenbaker, Fanfani, Mayor Brandt and others sent in code to our Embassies for transmission. Text of President's speech sent in code to all posts. Individual letters from President sent to 43 Heads of Government. During that week-end the State Department transmitted 15 separate Presidential letters or other documents to a total of 441 recipients.

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That afternoon and evening the Joint Chiefs of Staff directed the Commander in Chief of the

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October 21
Sunday
Continued

Atlantic Fleet (CINCLANT) to prepare to evacuate dependents from Guantanamo on Monday, to reinforce that base starting Monday, to assume operational control of certain Army and Air Force units, and to be prepared to furnish riot support control to Latin American countries as required. At 10:00 p.m. Secretary McNamara approved the procedures and rules of the quarantine.

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Monday
October 22

In the morning a planning directive for the quarantine of Cuba is issued to the Atlantic Fleet. The Policy group meets with the President at 11:00 a.m. The National Security Council meets at 3:00. President formally establishes Executive Committee of National Security Council (EXCOMM) and asks it to meet with him daily at 10:00 a.m. At noon Pierre Salinger requests air time from radio and television networks, which is granted and announces President will make important statement at 7:00 p.m. Also at noon, dependents start being evacuated from Guantanamo. Nine radio stations are asked to broadcast President's speech to Latin America in Spanish. At 4:00 p.m. the Cabinet meets. At 5:00 p.m. briefing for Congressional leaders at White House is given by the President and Secretaries Rusk and McNamara. During day Prime Minister Macmillan briefed by Ambassador Bruce, President DeGaulle by Dean Acheson, and Chancellor Adenauer by Ambassador Dowling. Acheson also briefs NATO Council. At 6:00 p.m. Ambassador Dobrynin sees Secretary Rusk. At 6:15 NATO, SEATO, CENTO Ambassadors are given background briefing at State Department by Under Secretary Ball. At 7:00 p.m. President speaks. At 7:30 letter from Ambassador Stevenson (with text

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Monday
October 22
(continued)

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of U.S. Resolution) given to Zorin in his capacity as President of the Security Council. At 7:30, Assistant Secretary Martin briefs OAS Ambassadors. At 8:15 p.m. Secretary Rusk briefs all other Ambassadors, and State Department background briefing for the press is held. Secretary McNamara briefs press at Pentagon, also on background basis. Aerial photographs exhibited and explained at all briefings. Public Affairs offices at State, Defense, White House go on 24-hour basis. Pentagon reviews mobilization planning. Preparations are ordered for possible reserve recall. Secretary McNamara directs step up in induction and training of Cuban nationals. From 10:40 to 11:25 p.m. he visits office of Chief of Naval Operations for discussions of the blockade and establishment of surveillance.

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Tuesday
October 23

Executive Committee meets at 10:00 a.m. President approves issuance of Proclamation of Interdiction. President signs Executive Order authorizing extension of tours of duty for certain member of armed forces. Three subcommittees of Executive Committee are established: On Berlin problems, advance planning, and communications. At 9:00 a.m. Secretary Rusk speaks to OAS Organ of Consultation in Washington. At 3:00 p.m. the OAS reconvenes and at 4:45 by 19-0 vote, adopts Resolution backing quarantine and urging immediate removal of Soviet missiles from Cuba. At 4:00 p.m. Ambassador Stevenson delivers opening statement to UN Security Souncil, and exhibits aerial photographs. Cuban and Soviet Representatives also speak. Executive Committee meets again at 6:00 p.m. At 7:00 p.m. President signs Proclamation at White House. At 8:00 p.m. Secretary of Defense announces that action has been taken to deploy our forces to make effective the quarantine by 10:00 a.m. the next morning. Also announces extension of active duty of certain personnel in Navy and Marine Corps. CINCLANT instructed to implement maritime quarantine. Chief of Naval Operations put in charge. Messages from President to Mayor Brandt, Chancellor Adenauer, President DeGaulle are sent.

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Wednesday
October 24

At 1:00 a.m. 14 aerial reconnaissance photos (prematurely released by American Embassy, London) are made available to U.S. press. At 9:00 a.m. the Security Council meets, with statements by Venezuela, the United Kingdom, Romania, and Ireland. Quarantine takes effect at 10:00 a.m. Executive Committee meets at 10:00 a.m. at White House. At 11:00 a.m. State Department background briefing is held for delegates of European Broadcasting Union. At 2:00 p.m. U Thant sends identical messages to President and Khrushchev asking that U.S. and Soviet ships avoid direct confrontation for the next few days. OAS meets at 3:00 p.m. At 3:00 p.m., the French, British, and German Ambassadors see Secretary Rusk. There is a Congressional Briefing at 5:00 p.m. at the White House. At the 6:00 p.m. Security Council meeting there are statements by France, China, Chile, UAR, Ghana, and the Secretary General. UAR and Ghana submit resolution calling on both sides to refrain from action and to negotiate. TASS releases exchange of telegrams between Bertrand Russell and Khrushchev. White House requests public media to exercise discretion in publishing information relating to national security. Defense issues announcement centralizing information release in office of Public Affairs. At 4:00 p.m.

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Wednesday
October 24

Defense announces there are 8-10 bases near various Cuban cities, each base having 40 launchers; and that there are over 30 missiles, over 20 IL-28 jet fighter bombers, and over 5,000 Soviet personnel in Cuba. The Greek oiler "Sirius" is cleared through the quarantine. At 7:35 p.m. four low level aerial reconnaissance photos are released.

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October 25
Thursday

At 8:00 a.m. the U. S. Navy intercepts the Soviet tanker "Bucharest" proceeding towards Cuba and permits it to proceed without boarding. Executive Committee of National Security Council meets at 10:00 a.m. The President given report on military situation and issues instructions for the interdiction and inspection of non-Bloc ships. At 11:50 a.m., Defense Department announces at least a dozen Soviet vessels en route to Cuba have turned back. State Department gives background briefing for U.S. press at noon followed by 2:00 p.m. briefing for foreign press. President's reply to U Thant's message (10/24) sent at 2:19 p.m., stating Ambassador Stevenson will talk to U Thant. Khrushchev also replies to U Thant. At 2:26 p.m. U Thant sends second message to President and Khrushchev asking avoidance of direct confrontations of Soviet and American ships in quarantine. Resolution adopted by the OAS on 12/23 transmitted to the UN. At Security Council meeting late afternoon, Stevenson challenges Zorin to deny existence of Soviet missiles in Cuba. State Department conducts briefings during day for Congressmen in Atlanta, New York City, Chicago, San Francisco.

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October 25
Thursday
Continued

At 8:35 p.m. the East German passenger ship "Voiderfreund" with 20 students bound for Havana is cleared through the quarantine, as was the British ship "Sulaco," bound for Jamaica. Late that night instructions are sent to all posts on CLEARCERT procedures to be followed by vessels departing from foreign ports destined for quarantine areas.

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October 26
Friday

At 7:50 a.m. the Lebanese flag ship "Marucla" under charter to the Soviet Union is intercepted and boarded by a party from the "Joseph P. Kennedy" and "Pierce." Boarding party not armed and ship permitted to proceed when no weapons are found. Later the Swedish ship "Collangatta" passed through quarantine. At 10:00 a.m., the Excomm meets at White House. Secretary of Defense reports on quarantine and Secretary Rusk reports on negotiations underway between U Thant and Stevenson. The President authorizes release of statement noting that missile development work is continuing in Cuba and recalling his earlier statement that such work must cease. Tightened security measures go into effect at Pentagon. At 4:00 p.m. British, German, and French Ambassadors are briefed at State Department and see Secretary. At 6:15 Mr. Salinger announces that photo reconnaissance reveals continued buildup of missiles in Cuba. In letter to U Thant that day Khrushchev accepts proposal that Soviet ships should stay out of interception area. President replies to U Thant that incidents can

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October 26
Friday
Continued

be avoided if Soviet ships stay out of interception area. U Thant sends letter to Castro asking that work on missile bases be suspended while negotiations under way. That night, letter from Khrushchev to Kennedy is received. This letter, still unpublished, contained the rudiments of the proposed settlement. Secretary Rusk and aides remain late at State Department analyzing the messages and developments.

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Saturday
October 27

President meets with Executive Committee of National Security at 10:00 a.m. in the Situation Room at the White House. During that meeting a new Khrushchev letter to President received as published in TASS and broadcast on Radio Moscow, stating that Jupiter missiles should be withdrawn from Turkey in exchange for removal of Soviet missiles from Cuba. Between 10:15 and 11:00 a.m. a U-2 reconnaissance plane is shot down over Eastern Cuba. At about the same hour a U-2 accidentally overflies the Chokut Peninsula in Eastern USSR due to navigational difficulties. At Excomm President decides to issue public statement in response to unacceptable Khrushchev message of that morning, and to reply to Khrushchev letter of previous evening. White House press release at 4:35 p.m. refers to "inconsistent and conflicting" proposals of the USSR and calls attention to imperative necessity of dealing immediately with the Soviet missile threat in Cuba "under which no sensible negotiation can proceed." At 3:15 p.m. the State Department announces CLEARCERT system to assist vessels intending to transit waters near Cuba. At 3:35 p.m. the Pentagon announces that Jupiter missiles were made available to Turkey pursuant

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Saturday
October 27
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to a NATO Council Resolution of December, 1957.
Also announced that our reconnaissance plane on
flight over Cuba is missing and presumed lost.
At 4:00 p.m. the Excomm meets again with President.
Secretary McNamara reports that two low-level
reconnaissance planes flying over Cuba have
been fired on by light anti-aircraft and small
arms. President approves reply to Khrushchev's
private letter of the previous evening. It is
transmitted at 8:05 p.m. and released to the press.
At 4:00 p.m. the Joint Chiefs of Staff advised
CINCLANT that the circular areas of 500 nautical
miles radius centered on Havana and Cape Maysi had
been designated as the interception area for the
quarantine of Cuba. At 9:00 p.m. a note is received
from Secretary General U Thant that Soviet Representa-
tive Zorin refused to receive information about the
interception area. At 9:00 p.m. Excomm meeting
President approves call-up of 24 troop carrier
squadrons of the Air Force Reserve, which is
announced by Secretary McNamara at 9:20 p.m.
At 9:19 p.m. State Department receives copy of
Castro reply to U Thant rejecting the proposal
that missile bases be dismantled and demanding
immediate halt of the naval blockade. Excomm

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Saturday
October 27
(continued)

discusses additional steps to be taken following day, such as mobilizing U.S. merchant ships and adding petroleum, oil, and lubricants to the prohibited list. That night at 12:12 a.m. instructions are sent to Ambassador Finletter for a special meeting of the NATO Council, to report on actions taken thus far and to review with NATO the problems arising out of Khrushchev's public letter. Letters from President are sent to DeGaulle and Adenauer.

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Sunday
October 28

Defense Department announces names of units of Air Force Reserve called up and that aerial reconnaissance of Cuba continuing. About 10:00 a.m. new Khrushchev message is broadcast over Radio Moscow. (Delivered to American Embassy, Moscow at 7:00 p.m. local time, ten minutes after start of broadcast.) Full text as broadcast available at 11:00 a.m. meeting of Executive Committee. Message orders dismantling and returning of missiles to USSR under UN supervision. A reply to Khrushchev is discussed, approved, sent, and released, without waiting for official text to be received. The President in Excomm and a State Department official at 1:00 p.m. background press briefing indicate that while we welcome Khrushchev's message, it remains to be implemented, and many serious problems will be encountered in the withdrawal of Soviet weapons from Cuba. This is not a time for gloating, nor can one reach any general conclusions about the future course of Soviet conduct in other areas. At 1:30 p.m. the Joint Chiefs direct CINCLANT to take no forceful action and not to board any ships until further orders. At 5:00 p.m. Secretary of State briefs Latin American Ambassadors on latest developments.

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Sunday
October 28
(continued)

At 5:40 p.m. U Thant writes President Kennedy stating his understanding of the agreement that has been reached in the exchange of correspondence. At 6:30 p.m. President sends letter to U Thant confirming the lines on which a satisfactory settlement of the Cuban situation can be reached. U Thant writes Castro accepting invitation to go to Cuba with aides to work out solution.

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